

Welcome to the Legislative Update for January 28, 2011

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

In advance of the Legislative Council calendar deadlines, bills continue to be filed. Monday, January 31st marks the last day for Senate bills to be introduced without special permission. February 7th is the last day for House bills to be introduced without special permission.

Budget

On Tuesday, the Governor sent a letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services requesting a waiver from the maintenance of effort requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The letter is posted at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_012511_SebeliusLetter.pdf

The AHCCCS Maintenance of Effort Waiver Frequently Asked Questions can be found at: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/Downloads/BudgetProposals/FY2012/MOEWaiverFAQs.pdf>

Senate and House Appropriations Committees hearings on AHCCCS:

Senate Appropriations agenda for Tuesday, February 1, 2011:

<http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/02010154102.pdf>

House Appropriations agenda for Wednesday, February 2, 2011:

<http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/02020101102.pdf>

State agency presentations to the House Health & Human Services Committee are posted at their websites:

AHCCCS: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/Downloads/Legislation/Presentations/1-12househealth.pdf>

DES: https://www.azdes.gov/uploadedFiles/Office_of_Communications/des_house_hhs_presentation_1_12_11.pdf

DHS: <http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/documents/ADHS20100723.pdf>

The Joint Legislative and Budget Committee (JLBC) Appropriations Committee hearing presentations (updated 1/28/2011) is linked at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/appropspresentations.pdf>

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on some of the bills the Council is tracking:

H2024: Retirement; ASRS; Amendments: on 1/12 from the House Employment and Regulatory Affairs Committee with a do pass recommendation.

H2027: Retirement: ASRS: Return to Work: Contributions: on 1/12 from House Employment & Regulatory Affairs Committee with do pass recommendation.

H2091: Nurses; Continuing Education: on 1/18 bill was referred to the House Health & Human Services; Appropriations.

H2128: Insurance; Mental Health Coverage; Parity: on 1/18 referred to House Banking & Insurance Committee.

H2156: Dental Hygienists; Supervision Requirements: on 1/18 referred to House Health & Human Services Committee.

H2224: Court Appointed Fiduciaries: on 1/24 referred to House Banking & Insurance Committee.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: on 1/19 referred to House Health & Human Services Committee.

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: On 1/24 referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

H2510: Palliative Care; Patient Information: on 1/26 referred to House Health & Human Services Committee.

S1030: Dental Hygienists; Supervision: on 1/10 referred to Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee.

S1038: Assisted Living Caregivers; Regulation, on 1/27 passed Senate and ready for the House.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: on 1/25 ok from the Senate Rules Committee.

Hearings:

H2157: DHS; Stroke Care Protocols, House Health & Human Service, 2/2 at 9:00 am, House Rm. 4

H2159: Dental Board; Fees, House Employment & Regulatory Affairs, 2/1 at 2:00 pm, House Rm. 3

H2372: Conservatorships; Guardianships; County Reimbursement, House Banking & Insurance Committee, 1/31, at 2:00 pm, House Rm. 5

S1175: Homeopaths; Categories of Licensure, Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform, 2/2 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 1

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings, see the information provided at the FULL LIST link below.

A summary of all legislative action on bills the Council is tracking can be found on the FULL LIST link provided below.

Note: to learn more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

At the end of day nineteen, 985 bills posted and 2 passed, 1 signed; 74 memorials or resolutions posted, 9 passed. Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Note: The FULL LIST website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ***This list will continue to be edited and expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all of the bills. We will add new bills to the list on a regular basis until all bills have been posted.*** Once all bills have been filed and reviewed, we will establish the Council's **SHORT LIST** – those bills of particular focus as they affect health and safety of older adults. Note: Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

If you're interested in committee assignments and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.70

Disability Benefit Fairness Act of 2011

Introduced on 1/5/2011 by Representative Mike McIntyre (NC-7), the bill has no cosponsors.

Disability Benefit Fairness Act of 2011 - Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to eliminate: (1) the five-month waiting period for an individual (including a disabled widow or widower) to be eligible for benefits based on disability; and (2) any intervening reconsideration from the review process governing decisions on benefit entitlement.

On 1/5/2011, H.R. 70 was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 239

Notch Baby Act of 2011

Introduced on 1/7/2011 by Representative Jo Ann Emerson (MO-8), the bill has no cosponsors.

Notch Baby Act of 2011 - Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act with respect to the benefit computation formula for individuals affected by the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977 who became eligible (at age 62) for (early retirement) old-age insurance benefits after 1978 and before 1989 (and reached age 65 for full-retirement benefits after 1981 and before 1992).

Sets forth a schedule of additional benefit increases for such beneficiaries (and related beneficiaries), with percentages declining from 60% to 10% keyed to the year an individual became eligible for (early retirement) benefits between 1978 and 1989.

On January 7, 2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Contact Your Congressional Member. If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

From the **Kaiser Family Foundation**

"Measure of State Economic Distress" - data for each state on the number of homes in foreclosure, unemployment rates, and utilization of SNAP (formerly Food Stamp program):

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?ind=649&cat=1>

Kaiser Health News – Making End-of-Life Decisions is Hard on Family Members:

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Features/Insuring-Your-Health/michelle-andrews-on-end-of-life-care.aspx>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: 66th Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising

WHEN: February 19, 2011, 9:00 am, Matthew B. Juan – Ira Hayes Veterans Memorial Park, Sacaton, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/IwoJimaFlagRaisingFeb19.pdf>

WHAT: Health Fair –Youngtown, Arizona

WHEN: Saturday, February 26, 2011; 9:00 am to 2:00 p.m.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/HealthFairYoungtownFeb26.pdf>

WHAT: Southwest Valley Forum: Constructive Solutions to Common Challenges – Low Vision, Dental Care, Hearing Loss

WHEN: Thursday, February 24, 2011, 8:30 – 12:00 noon, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 918 S. Litchfield Road, Building B, Goodyear, AZ 85338

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AAASWVForum022411.pdf>

WHAT: 2011 Walk Across Arizona promoted by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

WHEN: February 13 to April 9, 2011

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/WalkAZ2011.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a good week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging